

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A virtual private communications network (VPCN) comprising:
 5 a communications server;
 at least one communications trunk connecting said communications server to
 a public telephone network;
 a remotely connected device communicating with said communications
 server, said remotely connected device acting as a locally connected digital
 10 telephone; and
 a remote telephone located in the vicinity of said remotely connected device,
 telephonic communications being provided to and from said remote telephone in
 cooperation with said communications server and controlled by said remotely
 connected device.
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2. A VPCN as in Claim 1 further comprising:
 a plurality of digital telephones connected to said communications server.
3. A VPCN as in Claim 1 wherein said remotely connected device is a web
 20 enabled device connected over the Internet, said VPCN further comprising:
 a web server connected to said communications server and the Internet.
4. A VPCN as in Claim 3 wherein said web enabled device is a personal
 computer (PC).
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5. A VPCN as in Claim 4 wherein said PC includes a modem connecting said
 PC to the Internet.
6. A VPCN as in Claim 1 wherein said communications server is a PBX server.
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7. A VPCN as in Claim 1 wherein said remotely connected device is a wireless
 access protocol (WAP) device connected over the Internet.
8. A VPCN as in Claim 7 wherein said WAP is a personal digital assistant
 35 (PDA) with a wireless connection to the Internet.
9. A virtual private communications network (VPCN) comprising:
 a communications server;

a web server connected to said communications server and the Internet;
 a plurality of digital telephones connected to said communications server;
 at least one communications trunk connecting said communications server to
 a public telephone network;

5 a plurality of remotely connected web enabled devices communicating with
 said communications server, said remotely connected devices each acting as a
 locally connected digital telephone; and

a remote telephone located in the vicinity of each of said remotely connected
 web enabled devices, telephonic communications being provided to said digital
 10 telephones from remote telephones in cooperation with said communications server
 and controlled by said remotely connected web enabled devices.

10. A VPCN as in Claim 9 wherein at least one web enabled device is a personal
 computer (PC).

15 11. A VPCN as in Claim 10 wherein at least one PC includes a modem
 connecting to the Internet, said at least one PC being connected to the web server
 over the Internet.

20 12. A VPCN as in Claim 9 wherein said communications server is a PBX server.

13. A VPCN as in Claim 9 wherein at least one remotely connected device is a
 wireless access protocol (WAP) device connected over the Internet.

25 14. A VPCN as in Claim 13 wherein said WAP is a personal digital assistant
 (PDA) with a wireless connection to the Internet.

15. A method for communicating with a private communications network, said
 method comprising the steps of:

30 a) connecting a remotely located web enabled device to a
 communications server; and

b) initiating calls at the communications server from and to a remote
 telephone in the vicinity of said remotely located web enabled device, said remotely
 located web enabled device initiating and controlling said calls.

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16. A method as in Claim 15 wherein the step (a) of connecting the remotely
 located web enabled device comprises the steps of:

- i) calling an Internet service provider;
 - ii) negotiating a modem connection with said Internet service provider;
- and
- iii) connecting to a web server connected to said communications server.